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ABSTRACT

The main instrument of data collection in this survey of library technical processing centers was a questionnaire sent to 16 network coordinators. Following a review of current literature, results of the questionnaire are discussed with regard to five areas: (1) each network's means of identification (definition) of processing centers, (2) types of clients served, (3) means by which libraries became clients, (4) charges levied, and (5) needs of processing centers for continuing access to cataloging data. Each network's definition of a processing center is presented; statistical tables present data from the other four areas of concern from the questionnaire. Information from "Totcat Network Billings" supports a discussion on system use data. Tables are used to show system activity of institution, proportions of first time uses, distribution of titles produced, and other information. In the next section, a table lists 32 commercial processing centers and indicates which of four standard services are available through each (book catalog services, book processing kits, cataloging services, or printed catalog cards). Appendices containing the processing center questionnaire and cover memorandum, an essay on the state-of-the-art of processing centers in Wisconsin, and network billing data complete the report. (SW)

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Technical Report

on

PROCESSING CENTERS

by

Carl A. Anderson

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I. Introduction

This report presents the results of four avenues of investigation regarding processing centers and services: a review of the literature on processing centers, an analysis of the responses to questionnaires which I prepared and distributed to participating network offices, a brief compilation of information on commercial processing services, and an analysis of OCLC billing data to compare the activity of reported processing centers with that of OCLC participants in general.

The literature on processing centers includes numerous reports of the successes or failures of processing centers, several articles on the practical details of operating or using processing centers, and some historical work. Only rarely does the literature contain definitions of the term "processing center," and these definitions are broad. My request to the networks that they furnish me with information about the processing centers with which they interact obliged them in one way or another to formulate and describe a working definition of "processing center." These definitions, too, were often broad, and the narrower ones were conflicting and overlapping. Thus, I found little support for any but a broadly inclusive definition of "processing center," and this is much like no definition at all.

My analysis of OCLC billing data, however, revealed that the processing centers reported by the networks do indeed behave in an appreciably different fashion from OCLC participants in general. As I state in Section V, the data make two conclusions inescapable:

1. Processing centers derive an appreciable benefit from their ability to catalog a large volume of duplicate items, as is apparent in their lower than normal percentages of total (and billable) first time uses, and
2. Processing centers comprise a disproportionately large number of large users of the OCLC System, a fact compounded by the tendency of larger processing centers to serve larger than normal clients.

In other words, it may be difficult to say what processing centers are, but it's easy enough to know one when you see one.

II. The Literature

In 1970, Library Resources & Technical Services (vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 269-278) published an article entitled "State Libraries and Centralized Processing," by F. William Summers. This article reviews the previous years' literature on processing centers, and proves an apt introduction to the literature of the 1970's. Mr. Summers states (p. 272):

To categorize one group of writings as research and thereby exclude other writings on the same subject is to tread on very thin ice. It is a supportable statement, however, that centralized processing activities have not been supported by significant research studies. In 1960 Maurice Tauber characterized the literature of centralized cataloging as "largely philosophical, historical, polemical and descriptive."... Relatively little has occurred in the last decade to make that statement untrue. Most of the research has occurred after the establishment of the centers.

Mr. Summers' observation may not be entirely justified, for widely hailed investigations, in New York and Pennsylvania for example, did review library needs and practices, and produced recommendations that one or a few processing centers should be established to serve one or more types of libraries in each of the studied states. On the other hand, no such unified processing service emerged in New York or Pennsylvania. Similarly, Mr. Summers fails to take into account the possibility that a functioning processing project may in fact serve as a "laboratory" in which to demonstrate the feasibility of centralized processing services. Thus, the Colorado Academic Library Book Processing Center (CALBPC) operated as a pilot project and yielded two substantial progress reports: Centralized Book Processing, a Feasibility Study Based on Colorado Academic Libraries, by Lawrence E. Leonard, Joan M. Maier, and Richard M. Dougherty (Metuchen, N.J., 1969), and Centralized Processing for Academic Libraries, the Final Report (Phase III, Jan. 1-June 30, 1969) of the Colorado Academic Libraries Book Processing Center, the First Six Months of Operation, by Dougherty and Maier (Metuchen, N.J., 1971). CALBPC later found centralized processing to be infeasible, and suspended its processing operations.

Keeping these somewhat ironic exceptions in mind, we can apply Mr. Summers' observations to the literature on processing centers of the 1970's. This literature is largely confined to advocacy of the benefits obtainable through processing centers (or explanations of the failure of processing centers to satisfy expectations), descriptions of practices of established processing centers, and notices, in Library Journal and elsewhere, of the creation, successes, or demise of various processing centers. Only rarely is there a definition (working, or otherwise) of the term, "processing center," to provide context to the more practical and immediate concerns that predominate in the literature. One such exception occurs in the first of the CALBPC studies cited above. Here the authors quote three earlier works to provide definitions of "processing center" and "centralized processing." By these definitions, a processing center is

... a single agency which processes materials for a wider group of libraries. This may be, among other types, a library system with its branch or departmental libraries, a central agency such as a state or county library agency, some arrangement among a group of independent library systems whereby they agree to set up and operate such a center cooperatively, or where independent libraries contract to purchase this service from some other established library. (Mullen, Evelyn Day, "Guidelines for Establishing a Centralized Library Processing Center," Library Resources and Technical Services, 2(3):171, Summer 1959.)

... an agency ordering, receiving, cataloging, and preparing materials for two or more libraries. (American Library Association, Resources and Technical Services Division, Regional Processing Committee, "Guidelines for Centralized Technical Services," Library Resources and Technical Services, 10(2):233, Spring 1966.)

As transcribed in the CALBPC report, "centralized processing" means

... those steps whereby library materials for several independent libraries, either by contract or informal agreement, are ordered, cataloged, and physically prepared for use by library patrons, these operations being performed in one location with billing, packing, and distribution to these same libraries. (Hunt, James R., "The Historical Development of Processing Centers in the United States," Library Resources and Technical Services, 8(1):54, Winter 1964.)

The meanings which were current at the beginning of the 1970's, then, derive from definitions set as early as the late 1950's (if not before), and they continue through the decade. The article on "Processing Centers" in The ALA Yearbook; a Review of Library Events, 1975, begins:

A processing center handles the technical services function of a library, starting with the material order placing, checking in, presearching and cataloging, making book and catalog cards, and final preparation for use in the service library unit. Processing centers in operation in 1975 were associated with large municipal or county libraries, major universities, state libraries, and commercial enterprises. Large city libraries such as those in New York, Cleveland, and Philadelphia operated such centers in 1975. State examples were the Ohio State Library Processing Center, Columbus; the North Carolina State Library Processing Center, Raleigh; and the Mississippi Library Commission Processing Center, Jackson. Commercial processor examples included Baker & Taylor, Bro-Dart, Inc., and Josten's, Inc.

These represent the formal definitions of "processing center" and "centralized processing." They are subject to explicit criticism and implicit violation. Thus, in a 1967 study of Centralized Processing for Public Libraries in Illinois (Springfield, Illinois State Library), Clayton Highum observes that the Chicago Public Library "currently offers the most complete centralized processing service to its member libraries" (i.e., its branches). Mr. Highum continues:

It should be noted that no attempt is being made here to compare the processing done by the Chicago Public Library for its branch libraries with the processing services being offered by the other library systems in the state to their member libraries. Obviously, no basis for such comparison exists nor would it be of any value to the study.

Unfortunately, Mr. Highum fails to make it obvious that there is no basis for comparison, nor supports his contention that the comparison would be of no use in his study.

Just as the range of agencies which qualify as processing centers is in dispute (i.e., is a large municipal library's central processing unit a processing center?), the range of services to be provided is open to question. "Full service" processing centers, such as the one operated by INCOLSA, also offer partial processing services--some, but not all of the range of services available--to clients who wish to perform internally the ordering or physical processing or other portions of the preparation of materials for circulation. Indeed, in the actual article containing the first of the formal definitions cited above, Evelyn Day Mullen follows her broad statement of the types of interlibrary arrangements which may link the members of a processing center with the following advice:

A clear statement should be made ... of the purpose and aims of the center. This could include the limits of service (e.g., whether it will include book ordering, whether it will include nonbook as well as book materials, whether physical preparation will include ... marking books, etc.) ...

A different perspective on processing centers emerges from the question, "Why are there processing centers and why do libraries use their services?" Edward A. Stockey, former manager of the INCOLSA processing center wrote an article for Hoosier School Libraries (vol. 17, pp. 15-18, 1978 Feb.) on "Choosing a Processing Service." The article begins:

There exists today a wide variety of processing services, commercial and cooperative, which provide high quality, low cost cataloging and processing for libraries.... Economic constraints precipitated by budget reductions and freezes have necessitated that consideration be given to contracting a library's processing, totally or in part, to an outside agency. In addition to economic necessity, the use of such services can also be justified by one or all of the following criteria:

1. Space. Library space is at a premium and that which is used for technical services cannot be used for user services....
2. Services.... Time spent cataloging or in supervision of processing is time that cannot be utilized for user services.
3. Quality. Processing services can now consistently provide low cost, high quality cataloging. This high quality may be due to increased accessibility of large data bases.

(ALA's Regional Processing Committee, in the "Guidelines" cited above, notes the related benefits deriving from a central staff of specialists and from sharing expensive equipment.) The emphasis here is that libraries can and should utilize external processing services to the extent that it is economically advantageous to do so and/or that doing so will increase the effective use of local resources for other purposes. Implicit in this is the promise that processing centers do and will continue to offer a range of full and partial processing services.

A different but equally useful perspective emerges from an article by Joseph R. Edelen, Jr., and Frederick Hack, "A Different Approach to Catalog Card Acquisitions--and Its Working!" (South Dakota Library Bulletin, vol. 55, pp. 237-242, 1969 Oct.). This perspective may be considered "the bottom line." The article describes a venture limited to the production of catalog cards, but the logic applies to any processing activity:

In the early spring of 1969, the University of South Dakota Libraries decided that it was indeed time to get out of the "Library of Congress orbit" and go it alone with regard to catalog card acquisition and production.... After an initial decision was made that something had to be done, several other conclusions were reached:

1. That we had to sell some of our end product to other libraries to offset the monthly overhead costs....

(Responses to the processing center questionnaire revealed that the University of South Dakota Libraries have since joined OCLC and, to comply with contractual limitations, have ceased supplying catalog cards to other libraries.)

The literature on processing centers does not support a systematic or comprehensive definition of what they are or what they do. Processing centers remain viable to the extent that they are able to provide effective and economical services, of varying types, to groups of libraries which stand in varying relationships to each other. The common means by which processing centers have achieved this is the concentration of skills and resources in single agencies, each capable of providing processing services to several separate libraries.

III. Processing Center Questionnaire

In 1979 May, I sent a questionnaire regarding processing centers to network coordinators (a copy of the questionnaire and the cover letter form Appendix A of this report). I have since received responses (full or partial) from 16 networks. This Section describes the responses as they pertain to five issues:

1. The definitions or considerations which network staff applied in identifying processing centers,
2. The types of clients served by reported processing centers,
3. The means by which libraries become clients of reported processing centers,
4. The charges levied by reported processing centers, and
5. The needs which reported processing centers have for continuing access to cataloging information regarding materials processed for their clients.

I address the first of these issues in the following list, which indicates the definitions or considerations described by the responding networks. In many cases, the networks formulated and submitted "working definitions" of the term "processing center." The list below shows these definitions, when available. Otherwise, the responses to Question 7 ("What characteristics of this agency lead you to include it in your working definition of 'processing center'?") form the basis for the entry in the list.

AMIGOS. "We have termed as processing centers those institutions which do central cataloging or interlibrary loan work for independent libraries. Independent libraries may exist within the same governmental hierarchy as does the processing center, but these independent libraries do not include branch or department libraries."

BCR. "A central facility for handling processes related to librarianship; including acquisitions, cataloging, physical preparation of materials, reference questions, and interlibrary loan requests, generally for multiple separate institutions."

CAPCON. The network identified one processing center, which produces catalog cards. Apparently, the center performs no services related to acquisitions or physical processing. The center does maintain a union catalog to support interlibrary loan.

ILLINET. "A processing center ... orders, catalogs, physically processes materials, and sends them shelf-ready to individual libraries.... Library systems which own a terminal and have staff to search and produce catalog cards

only for their member libraries have been excluded from this questionnaire because they do not regard themselves to be processing centers."

INCOLSA. The network identified seven processing centers. Among these, four school corporations (i.e., districts), a cataloging cooperative and a processing cooperative either catalog or catalog and process materials for collections to which they have no subsequent access. The seventh reported processing center, Indiana University Libraries, catalogs and processes materials for remote campuses located throughout the state.

MIDLNET. The single institution named as a processing center is identified as such for "the very simple fact that it was organized as a book processing center and nothing else."

MINITEX. "Only in the broadest sense of the word would I consider any of our participants to be processing centers.

"Most of ours are libraries with centralized processing--quite a different matter we determined as we filled out forms for them. The reason I would include them in the definition is that they each have one profile with a central department doing the cataloging for branches or other departments....

"We did have one institution (University of South Dakota) which was a processing center of sorts before their OCLC participation, but were not able to use OCLC because of legal implications. They had planned to sell card sets to anyone--nation-wide."

NEBASE. This network reported no processing centers.

NELINET. The network identified one agency as a processing center because "all OCLC participants are included in one profile ... and a central staff handles (processes) cataloging, etc., for users."

MLC. The network identified 12 processing centers. Although the network supplied no overall working definition of "processing center," 10 of the returned questionnaires state a reason for inclusion. Of these, six involve the fact that the agency centrally orders, catalogs, and processes materials for multiple institutions; one concerns the use of a single OCLC profile to represent multiple institutions; one describes the agency as selling cataloging on a simple fee-for-service basis; and one reads: "Among ourselves, we call ourself a terminal sharing center. Each library included in the profile has someone on their staff trained to use the terminal. MCL allocates a contracting institution a certain period of time per week based on the total number of yearly FTU's purchased."

OHIONET. The network identified nine processing centers, giving reasons for including three of them. One provides cataloging, selection lists, full acquisitions functions, spine labels, and pocket cards. One operates as a cataloging service, providing no acquisitions functions. One produces catalog cards.

PRLC. "I consider a processing center either a) a library which performs on-line services for another library and/or b) a library who for interlibrary loan purposes must keep a union card catalog because the 3 letter institution symbol does not indicate which library actually owns the material."

SCLINET. "Here's how I understand OCLC's intent regarding processing centers. OCLC wants to identify those institutions, having one OCLC symbol, that are made up of libraries that for many purposes are separate and distinct and could benefit from separate identification within the on-line union catalog." The network did not complete questionnaires for institutions which fit this category, but sent a list of such institutions, including:

1. Processing centers -
 - a. state processing centers serving small public libraries and governmental agencies,
 - b. medical and hospital library processing centers,
 - c. a university library processing center serving regional campus libraries;
2. University libraries with special subject collections;
3. College and university systems with branch campuses;
4. Affiliated libraries which already have separate institution symbols, cataloging for some of which is already done centrally.

SUNY. "A central library providing OCLC Services to small branches or libraries unable to support their own OCLC operation.

"The relationship between the Central Library and its 'branches' may be of two kinds:

- a) organizationally fiscally autonomous, or
- b) organizationally and fiscally related.

"Charges may be levied on entities served or services may be provided 'free' where allocations exist from state funds.

"Entities served may have individual profiles or may be profiled as branches of the center.

"Some central libraries have the responsibility for clearinghouse and referral services for ILL. Others do centralized materials purchasing while others are union list centers. All maintain delivery systems.

"Consequently in all cases a union catalogue of holdings and locations is mandatory either in card form (difficult and costly) or on line; preferably with individual codes for each entity i.e. separate profile."

WESTERN. The network identified one processing center, which "provides processing for more than one library."

WLC. "It is my feeling that any time cataloging takes place for more than one library in the same place, by the same staff, - you've got a processing center. The 'full service' center will also provide acquisitions, physical preparation of the book (jackets, labels, etc.), accounting and perhaps new book lists. A deluxe operation might also add consulting services, some book selection, interlibrary loan clearinghouse functions, published union lists and a variety of other services." This network, in fact, prepared a most informative "brief essay on the state-of-the-art of processing centers in Wisconsin." I feel that it constitutes a useful supplement to this study of processing centers, so I am including it as Appendix B.

SUMMARY: The literature regarding processing centers promulgates an inclusive definition of the term, encompassing a broad range of agencies which perform a broad range of services. The definitions supplied by networks are sometimes as broad, but often, too, they prescribe certain processing functions or exclude certain types of interlibrary relationships. Even in these cases, there is no unanimity on the prescriptions and exclusions. There is a core definition which describes an agency offering full ordering, cataloging, physical processing, and (perhaps) interlibrary loan referral services to one or more separate and autonomous institutions. It appears that everyone would agree to the validity of that core definition. But the networks' definitions generally transcend that core, some including agencies whose "clients" are less than totally autonomous or, indeed, entirely interdependent, some including agencies which offer less than complete processing or, indeed, only single functions such as card production or even ILL referral.

The rest of this Section consists of tables which summarize responses to the questionnaire. They represent 95 processing centers reported by 14 networks (SOLINET named processing centers, but did not return questionnaires for them). Little analysis is possible, except to note that the varying characteristics of reported processing centers confirm the difficulty of defining narrowly what a processing center is and does.

The tables describe the types and numbers of clients of each reported processing center, and the needs the centers have for continuing access to cataloging information about items they have processed (Table 1), the geographic dispersion of clients of processing centers (Table 2), the extent to which processing centers concentrate on limited subject specialities (Table 3), the organizational characteristics of processing centers (Table 4), the means by which libraries become processing center clients (Table 5), and the charges which processing centers levy for their services (Table 6). The questions which aimed at discovering the organizational characteristics of processing centers used the words "legally mandated" to describe an agency which operates under a

legislative or similar instruction to provide processing services. It appears, however, that this meaning was often not clear, so the results reported in Table 4 are ambiguous. Many returned questionnaires lacked an indication of processing center charges (cf. Table 6) and the questionnaire did not address the different question of costs, so the extent to which processing centers succeed because they receive subsidies is uncertain. (In a letter to Library Journal, published on p. 299 of the issue for 1978 February 1, Joseph Eisner, chairman of the Executive Board of the Member Directors Association, Nassau [Co., N.Y.] Library System, wrote: "This success is due to the fact that the processing operation is subsidized at about 85 percent of its actual cost through allocation of noncategorical State Aid funds ... to what is regarded as one of the three highest priority services of the Nassau Library System.... Without some sort of subsidy, no processing center can be financially viable.")

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.			Types of Clients						Need for Cataloging Data					
Network	Processing Center	Inst. Symbol	Public	University/ College	Community/ Junior College	Schools	Special Libraries	Other	Support subse- quent cataloging	Support ILL	Support acqui- sitions functions	Other	Don't need	No answer
AMIGOS	Arkansas Library Commission	AKE	42							x		x		
	University of Arkansas Med. Sci.	AKM						6	x	x				
	Arkansas R. Valley Reg. Library	AVR	9							x	x			
	Oklahoma Department of Library	OKD						16		x	x			
	Metro. Library System	OKE	11							x				
	Irving Independent School District	IJA				26			x	x				
BCR	Garfield Co. Syst.	COG	11	1	1	26	3			x				
	SEMBCS	COQ				118				x				
	University of Southern Colorado	COS	1	1						x				
	Denver Law Librarians	COY					5			x				
	Colorado State Library	COZ					28			x				
	Adams Co. School District #12	DVA				30				x				
	Denver Special Librarians	DVS					10			x				
	Kansas City Kansas Public Library	KKC	14			54	1			x				
	North Central Kansas Library	KKM	39							x				
	Sterling College			5						x				
	Central Kansas Library System	KKV	69				1			x				
	Springfield-Greene Co.	MOS	12							x				
	University of Utah - Eccles Health Science	UUE		1			9			x				
	Utah State Library Commission	UUZ	5	3	1	514	10			x				

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.
(continued)

Network	Processing Center	Inst. Symbol	Types of Clients							Need for Cataloging Data				
			Public	University/ College	Community/ Junior College	Schools	Special Libraries	Other	Support subse- quent cataloging	Support ILL	Support acqui- sitions functions	Other	Don't need	No answer
CAPCON	Georgetown Medical Library P.C.	MPG						7		x				
ILLINET	Starved Rock Library Syst.	IEF	34		1	61	13		x	x				
	Lewis & Clark Library Syst.	IEU	47		1	42	10	1	x	x				
	Kaskaskia Library Syst.	IFG	19		1	32	9		x	x				
	River Bend Library Syst.	IFK	20		5	62	8		x	x				
INCOLSA	Crown Point Community School Corporation	ICO				8			x	x				
	INCOLSA Processing Center	ICP	30			2	20	10	x	x		x		
	Gary Community School Corp.	IGS				51			x	x				
	Lafayette Schools	ILA				18			x	x				
	Indiana University School of Med. Health Science Cooperative	IUH					10		x	x				
	Indiana Univeristy Libraries	IUL		26					x	x		x		
	Vigo Co. School Corp.	IVS				40			x			x		
MIDLNET	Library Services Center of Missouri	MOL	5	1			1	25					x	

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.
(continued)

Network	Processing Center	Inst. Symbol	Types of Clients							Need for Cataloging Data				
			Public	University/ College	Community/ Junior College	Schools	Special Libraries	Other	Support subse- quent cataloging	Support ILL	Support acqui- sitions functions	Other	Don't need	No answer
MINITEX	University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus	MNP		8										x
	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus	MNU		20										x
	Minneapolis P.L. and Information Center	MPI	15											x
	Ramsey Co. Public Library	RCL	5									x		
	St. Paul Public Library	SPP	11											x
	Traverse des Sioux Library System	TDS	10									x		x
NELINET	S. Connecticut Library Council	SWC	2	2	1		6			x				
MLC	Capital Library Coop.	EEJ	11											
	Lansing Public Library	EEP	2			57					x			
	Portage Public Schools	EXP	1		2	17	2		x				x	
	Kalamazoo Area Library System	EXZ	1			1			x					
	Macomb Co. Library	EYB	17			1			x					
	Huron Valley Library System	EYH	15								x			
	Detroit Coop. Cat. Center	EYQ						6			x			
	Cloverland	EZB	1		1						x			
	Muskegon Co. Library	EZM			2						x			
	Superiorland Library Coop.	EZP	14			1	1						x	
	White Pine Library Coop.	EZW	7						x					
	Michigan M.P.C.	EZZ	78		2	1			x	x				

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.
(continued)

Network	Processing Center	Inst. Symbol	Types of Clients							Need for Cataloging Data				
			Public	University/ College	Community/ Junior College	Schools	Special Libraries	Other	Support subse- quent cataloging	Support ILL	Support acqui- sitions functions	Other	Don't need	No answer
OHIONET	Akron - Summit County Public Library	/PL	2											x
	Cuyahoga County Public Library	(XP	27			185							x	
	East Cleveland Public Library	ECP				8								x
	University of Cincinnati Medical Center	MIC						2		x				
	North East Ohio Univ. College of Med.	ONE						10						x
	State Library of Ohio P.C.	SLC	41	7	3		2	18					x	
	Toledo - Lucas County Public Library	TLM	1										x	
	Wright State University Health Science	WSM						4		x				
	Youngstown - Mahoning Public Library	YMM	1											x
PRLC	Community College of Allegheny Co.	AIC			3					x				
	Altoona Area Public Library	AOP	8						x					
	Beaver Co. Fed. Library Syst.	BFJ	11					2	x	x				
	Cambria County Library	JOC	16					2	x					
	Central Pa. District Library Center	PCB	6							x				
	Warren Library Association	WDL	5										x	
	Citizens Library	WVC	9							x				

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.
(continued)

Network	Processing Center	Inst. Symbol	Types of Clients						Need for Cataloging Data					
			Public	University/ College	Community/ Junior College	Schools	Special Libraries	Other	Support subse- quent cataloging	Support ILL	Support acqui- sitions functions	Other	Don't need	No answer
SUNY	New York State Library	NYG								x				
	North Country Library System	RTN	66						x	x				
	Central New York Library Resources Council	SRR	3	7	5		8			x				
	Buffalo and Erie Co. Public Library Syst.	VHB	60						x	x				
	Mohawk Valley Library Association	VML	13							x				
	Upper Hudson Library Fed.	VUE	34						x	x				
	S. Adirondack Library Syst.	VVA	30											x
	Westchester Library Syst.	VVW	53						x	x				
	Finger Lakes Library Syst.	VYG	29						x	x				
	Clinton - Essex Franklin Library	VZC	32						x	x				
	W. New York Library Resources Center	VZX	2	5	4	1	25			x				
	Rochester Public Library	VQR	81						x	x				
	Onondaga County Public Library	YVO	33						x	x				
	Four County Library Syst.	YX9	43						x	x				
	Medical Library Center	ZML						19						x
	Nioga Library Syst.	ZNM	22						x	x				
	Southern Tier Library Syst.	ZSA	39						x	x				
	Mid York Public	ZTM	40							x				
	BOCES (Rochester)	-				48				x				
	BOCES - Monroe I & II	-				91				x				
	Capital Dist. 3R's	-		3	2				x	x				
	Chattauqua Catteraugus Library Syst.	-	35						x	x				

Table 1. Processing Centers and Their Clients.
(continued)

Network	Processing Center	Inst. Symbol	Types of Clients							Need for Cataloging Data				
			Public	University/ College	Community/ Junior College	Schools	Special Libraries	Other	Support subse- quent cataloging	Support ILL	Support acqul- sitions functions	Other	Don't need	No answer
WESTERN	San Mateo Co. Technical P.C.	CZA	3				1		x					
WLC	State Agency Library P.C.	WIG						6		x				
	Arrowhead Library System	WIJ	7							x				
	S.W. Wisconsin Library System	-	27							x				
	Wisconsin Valley Library Service	-	10			1	1	3		x				

Table 2. Geographic Dispersion of Clients of Reported Processing Centers.

Area Served by Processing Center	Number of Processing Centers
Multistate region	1
One state	11
Multicounty region	48
One county	17
One city, town, or community	15
One campus	2
No answer	1

Table 3. Reported Processing Centers Serving Only Specialized Subject Collections.

Subject Specialization	Number of Processing Centers
Health, medicine	9
Education	2
Law	1
Correction, rehabilitation	1
Multiple different specializations	1
Other	2
No specialization	77
No answer	2

Table 4. Organizational Characteristics of Reported Processing Centers.

Legally Mandated to Provide Services*	Serves Formal Consortium*	Clients Have Separate Budgets*	Number of Processing Centers
Y	Y	Y	21
Y	Y	-	7
Y	N	Y	5
Y	N	N	1
N	Y	Y	15
N	Y	N	1
N	N	Y	19
N	N	N	5
-	N	Y	1
-	-	Y	2
-	-	-	18

*In these columns, Y = yes, N = no, hyphen = no answer. The number in the rightmost column of any row is the number of processing centers which share the characteristics described in the three columns on the left. There are 27 possible combinations for the leftmost three columns, but only those actually represented in responses appear in the Table.

Table 5. Means of Qualifying for Processing Services.

Means of Qualifying	Number of Reported Processing Centers
Automatic to members of consortium or group	28
By signing contract or agreement	32
By application or letter of intent	7
Other	6
No answer	22

Table 6. Charges for Processing Services.

Service and Charge	Number of Reported Processing Centers*
Full processing:	
\$2.00 or less	4
\$2.01 - \$4.00	3
Cards and processing kits @ \$6.00 per title	1
Cards (or cards and labels) only:	
\$2.00 or less	3
\$2.01 - \$5.00	3
Charges vary by formula	6
At cost	2
Other charging mechanisms	2
No charges, indirect charges	18
No answer	56

*Some centers are recorded more than once. This occurs if a center provides alternate services (e.g., cards only or complete processing) at different prices.

IV. The Processing Center Population

In the summer issue for 1970, Library Resources & Technical Services published "Centralized Processing: A Directory of Centers," by Donald D. Hendricks (vol. 14, no. 3, pp. 355-389). Table 7 summarizes the numbers of processing centers in Mr. Hendricks' list by primary type of library served. For each group, the Table also indicates the number of 1970 processing centers which are now OCLC participants, and the number of them which networks reported as processing centers in response to the questionnaire. More recent articles indicated that an updated directory would be forthcoming, but I have been unable to locate this in the published literature. I understand that an update is in circulation in unpublished form, but I have been unable to obtain a copy.

Much may be assumed to have changed in the past ten years, from the names of still functioning processing centers to the functions they now perform. Many may no longer exist. It is difficult, therefore, to draw conclusions from the data in Table 7. One remarkable fact, though, is the number of 1970 processing centers primarily serving schools which are not now OCLC participants.

Table 7. Processing Centers in Operation in 1970.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Primary Type of Client	Number in 1970	Number of (2) Now OCLC Members	Number of (3) in Question- naire Responses
Academic	3	2	1
Public	111	20	14
School	280	9	4
Public and School	20	4	2
Other	2	0	0
TOTALS	416	35	21

V. System Use Data

To determine the behavioral characteristics of processing centers as users of the OCLC System, I compared data extracted from Totcat Network Billings reports for the first six months of 1979 for a sample of all OCLC participants, with similar data for institutions reported to be processing centers in responses to questionnaires. The results show that processing centers in general, and large processing centers in particular, differ markedly from the norm in their use of the OCLC System.

To determine the characteristics of OCLC participants in general, I drew a systematic sample of institutions listed in Totcat Network Billings for 1979 January. (Appendix C includes a list of institutions in the sample and summary data representing the activity of both the sample institutions and reported processing centers.) Since Totcat Network Billings amounts to a random arrangement of sizes and types of institutions, the sample should contain a random assortment of institutions as well. The resulting sample consisted of 209 institutions out of a total of 1836 in the listing (11.38%). For each institution in the sample, for 1979 January-June, I collected the following data: total titles (i.e., total "produce" transactions), total first time uses, billable first time uses, and reclassification produces. I disregarded as too ambiguous data regarding updates; this data represents a smaller volume of activity than any regarding produces, in any event. Since reclassification produces differ from regular produces only in respect to billing, I uniformly combined reclassification produces with both total first-time uses and billable first time uses, to arrive at figures representing institutions' total use of the "produce" function (reclassification produces are already included in total titles). The comparisons below omit 19 institutions, originally drawn in the sample, because they effected no produce transactions during the six months under investigation.

I collected similar data for all 112 of the processing centers which networks reported in response to the questionnaire. Some of these, however, were not yet listed in the 1979 January Totcat Network Billings; the comparisons below omit these 9 processing centers to preserve comparability with the six month's data available for every institution in the general sample.

I also identified a subset of all processing centers, for further comparison, which conforms to a narrower definition of "processing center" than some networks used. This subset omits from the full six month set the following additional categories: single school districts served by a central processing unit, universities and colleges with multiple specialized collections and/or remote campuses, and cohesive public library systems located within a single community. The remainder consists of processing centers serving multiple, essentially autonomous, separate institutions.

Totcat Network Billings is not entirely satisfactory as a source of data for this comparison for two reasons. First, it is impossible to distinguish produces for the purpose of cataloging a new item from produces required to correct cataloging previously in error. Second, the data does not distinguish

single-item produces from multiple-item ("all") produces. However, these problems will tend (more or less) to pull the results in opposite directions, cancelling their antagonistic effects to some extent. Nor is it certain that these problems would apply equally to processing centers and other institutions. As it turns out, however, accounting for the (probably) more likely use by processing centers of the "all" produce function would only increase the observed difference in processing center behavior as compared with the norm. One final note regarding the comparisons below: The questionnaire resulted in some ambiguity in the reported numbers of clients using some centers, especially those based in functioning libraries which might not consider themselves as clients. On any questionnaire reporting only one client, I added the named processing agency itself as a second client.

Tables 8, 9, and 10 summarize System use by all institutions, all processing centers, and "multi-institutional" processing centers, respectively. In each case, the data is arranged to represent subgroups identified by volume of cataloging activity. The column of each table headed "% FTU's of Total Titles" represents the proportion of the (sub)group's cataloging for items not previously processed. The column headed "% BFTU's of Total Titles" represents the proportion of the (sub)groups produces which result in system use charges for cataloging.

Table 8 demonstrates a strong similarity between all sizes (as measured by total titles produced) of institutions producing fewer than 10,000 titles during the six-month period, and an appreciable variation between those institutions and institutions producing more than 10,000 titles. For all categories other than the largest, total FTU's and billable FTU's each comprise about nine out of ten total titles produced. For the 10,000+ category the comparable proportions are about eight FTU's per ten produces and seven billable FTU's per ten produces.

Tables 9 and 10 show a less pronounced similarity between the different size groups for processing centers producing fewer than 10,000 titles, but the dissimilarity between smaller processing centers and larger ones is substantial.

For comparative purposes, Tables 11, 12, and 13 collate some of the percentages transcribed in Tables 8-10. Table 11 compares, for all institutions, all processing centers, and multiple institution processing centers, the figures from the columns headed "% FTU's of Total Titles" in Tables 8-10. Table 12 compares the figures from "% Institutions of Set." Table 13 compares "% Total Titles of Set."

These tables make possible a number of observations. From Table 11 it is clear that, although smaller processing centers behave in a way which is similar to the activity of small institutions in general, large processing centers differ appreciably from the norm of all large institutions. About nine of ten produces by small institutions, including small processing centers, are first-time uses. In other words, about one produce in ten represents duplicate cataloging. For large institutions in general, about two produces in ten are repetitions. Among large multiple institution processing centers, fully one half of all produces are for items which they have already cataloged.

Table 12 demonstrates that a disproportionate share of processing centers are heavy users of the OCLC System. Thus, while two-thirds of all institutions produced fewer than 3000 titles during the six months under investigation, two-thirds of the studied processing centers (either all or multiple institution) produced more than 3000 titles.

According to Table 13, half of all institutions' total produces derived from institutions whose six-month volume was over 10,000 titles, but two-thirds of processing centers' produces came from the largest agencies.

Responses to the processing center questionnaire support another measure of their characteristics which it is appropriate to report at this time. Tables 14 and 15 represent, for all processing centers and for multiple institution processing centers respectively, the average number of clients and the average number of titles produced per client for the different sizes of processing centers. There is a tendency for large processing centers not only to serve a larger number of clients, but also to process a larger number of titles per client.

The foregoing makes two conclusions inescapable:

1. Processing centers derive an appreciable benefit from their ability to catalog a large volume of duplicate items, as is apparent in their lower than normal percentages of total (and billable) first time uses, and
2. Processing centers comprise a disproportionately large number of large users of the OCLC System, a fact compounded by the tendency of large processing centers to serve larger than normal clients.

Table 8. System Activity of a Sample of All Institutions.

Total Titles	Institutions	%Institutions of set	Average Total Titles	%Total Titles of set	Average FTU's (including Reclass.)	% FTU's of Total Titles	Average Billable FTU's (including Reclass)	%FTU's of Total Titles
1 - 1000	49	25.79	451	2.75	418	92.66	409	90.54
1001- 2000	42	22.11	1459	7.61	1338	91.73	1284	88.05
2001- 3000	32	16.84	2400	9.54	2220	92.50	2138	89.08
3001- 10000	43	22.63	5300	28.31	4908	92.59	4737	89.37
10000+	24	12.63	17371	51.79	13730	79.04	12443	71.63
ALL	190	100.00	4237	100.00	3623	85.50	3393	80.09

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Table 9. System Activity of All Reported Processing Centers.

Total Titles	Processing Centers	%Processing Center of set	Average Total Titles	%Total Titles of set	Average FTU's (including Reclass.)	% FTU's of Total Titles	Average Billable FTU's (including Reclass)	%BFTU's of Total Titles
1- 1000	9	8.74	576	0.60	497	86.24	496	86.09
1001- 2000	11	10.68	1629	2.06	1328	81.51	1312	80.54
2001- 3000	14	13.59	2491	4.02	2095	84.10	2062	82.80
3001- 10000	38	36.89	5820	25.47	4419	75.92	4330	74.39
10000+	31	30.10	19003	67.85	11071	58.26	10554	55.54
ALL	103	100.00	8430	100.00	5432	64.44	5237	62.13

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Table 10. System Activity of Multiple Institution Processing Centers.

Total Titles	Processing Centers	%Processing Center of set	Average Total Titles	%Total Titles of set	Average FTU's (including Reclass.)	% FTU's of Total Titles	Average Billable FTU's (including Reclass)	%BFTU's of Total Titles
1- 1000	8	11.11	561	0.75	478	85.15	478	85.13
1001- 2000	6	8.33	1715	1.73	1378	80.38	1359	79.25
2001- 3000	9	12.50	2345	3.55	1932	82.39	1917	81.76
3001- 10000	27	37.50	5716	25.95	4149	72.60	4070	71.21
10000+	22	30.56	18382	68.01	9059	49.28	8875	48.28
ALL	72	100.00	8258	99.99	4733	57.32	4644	56.23

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Table 11. Proportions of First Time Uses.

Total Titles	% FTU's of Total Titles		
	All Institutions	All Processing Centers	Multiple Institution Processing Centers
1 - 1000	92.66	86.24	85.15
1001-2000	91.73	81.51	80.38
2001-3000	92.50	84.10	82.39
3001-10000	92.59	75.92	72.60
10000+	79.04	58.26	49.28
ALL	85.50	64.44	57.32

Table 12. Distributions by Institution Size.

Total Titles	% Institutions in Set		
	All Institutions	All Processing Centers	Multiple Institution Processing Centers
1 - 1000	25.79	8.74	11.11
1001-2000	22.11	10.68	8.33
2001-3000	16.84	13.59	12.50
3001-10000	22.63	36.89	37.50
10000+	12.63	30.10	30.56
ALL	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 13. Distributions of Titles Produced.

Total Titles	% of Total Titles in Set		
	All Institutions	All Processing Centers	Multiple Institution Processing Centers
1 - 1000	2.75	0.60	0.75
1001-2000	7.61	2.06	1.73
2001-3000	9.54	4.02	3.55
3001-10000	28.31	25.47	25.95
10000+	51.79	67.85	68.01
ALL	100.00	100.00	99.99

Table 14. Clients of All Processing Centers.*

Total Titles	All Processing Centers*	Average Clients	Average Total Titles per Client
1 - 1000	7	20	29
1001-2000	7	18	89
2001-3000	12	12	205
3001-10000	27	19	299
10000+	24	72	264
ALL	77	35	244

(*SOLINET did not report client data, so SOLINET processing centers are not represented in this tabulation.)

Table 15. Clients of Multiple Institution Processing Centers*.

Total Titles	Multiple Institution Processing Centers*	Average Clients	Average Total Titles per Client
1 - 1000	7	20	28
1001-2000	5	13	130
2001-3000	8	12	191
3001-10000	23	18	307
10000+	20	82	223
ALL	63	38	219

(*SOLINET did not report client data, so SOLINET processing centers are not represented in this tabulation.)

VI. Commercial Processing Services

Library Journal's latest "Annual Buyers' Guide" (vol. 103, no. 15, pp. 1584-1621) lists four categories of processing services which are available commercially: book catalog services, book processing kits, cataloging services, and printed catalog cards ("cards, catalog, printed"). Table 16 shows the vendors and the services they offer.

Table 16. Commercial Processing Services.

Vendor	Type of Service			
	Book Catalog Services	Book Processing Kits	Cataloging Services	Printed Catalog Cards
American Econo-Clad Services		X		
American Library Association				X
Associated Libraries		X	X	X
Auerbach Associates			X	
Auto-Graphics	X		X	
Baker & Taylor		X	X	
Blackwell North America	X	X	X	
Bookazine		X	X	
Bound To Stay Bound Books		X		
Brodart	X	X	X	X
CEL Products			X	
Charles W. Clark Co.		X	X	
Demco Education Corp.	X	X	X	X
Encyclopaedia Britannica Educational Corp.		X		
Follett Library Book Co.		X	X	X
Gaylord Bros.		X		
General Microfilm	X			
H.R. Huntting Co.		X	X	X
Informatics	X	X	X	
International Rehabilitation Film Review Library			X	

Table 16. Commercial Processing Services.
(continued)

Vendor	Type of Service			
	Book Catalog Services	Book Processing Kits	Cataloging Services	Printed Catalog Cards
Josten's Library Services	X	X	X	X
Library Processing Systems			X	
Metro Litho	X	X	X	X
Midwest Library Service		X		
Mook & Blanchard		X	X	
National Information Center for Educational Media			X	
Science Pr	X		X	
Specialized Service and Supply Co.		X		
3M Co. Library Systems			X	
Tracor Jitco		X	X	
University Products		X		
Xerox Bibliographics	X	X	X	X

VII. Conclusions

Most of the literature on processing centers during the past decade consists of description or advocacy. When definitions do appear, they are broad and inclusive. Many of the network responses to the processing center questionnaire reflect equally broad definitions of the term, "processing center," but others reflect narrower, overlapping, and sometimes conflicting definitions. There is no consensus, then, on a definition of "processing center" which is both widely acceptable and clearly prescriptive of what processing centers are and do.

The processing center questionnaire sidestepped this ambiguity and asked networks, in effect, both to formulate a working definition of "processing center" and to report on any agencies which fit that definition. As seen in OCLC system use data, reported processing centers behave in an appreciably different manner than do OCLC participants in general, and this difference is greatest among larger participants.

APPENDIX A:

Processing Center Questionnaire
and Cover Memorandum



1125 KINNEAR ROAD • COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212 • (614) 486-3661 • TWX 810 482-1658

1979 May 25

MEMORANDUM

TO: Network Coordinators
FROM: Carl Anderson, ^{CA}Library Systems Analyst, LSD
SUBJECT: Processing Center Questionnaire

As you know, OCLC is reviewing the characteristics and needs of processing centers which participate in the OCLC System. In 1978 December, Joel Kent, then of the Profiling and Authorization Section, asked you for information regarding the processing centers you work with, their clients, and the profiles which represent them. Many of you responded, and we appreciate your efforts in collecting and collating this information. In view of the lack of a commonly accepted definition of the term, "processing center," however, some of you felt unable to respond to our questions. This is understandable; I have since discovered that the current ALA glossary omits the term altogether.

I have been assigned the task of pursuing OCLC's investigation of processing centers and I now ask you to spend a bit more of your time to help me collect the information I need to complete this task. Our objectives are

- To formulate a realistic and meaningful definition for the term, "processing center," within the context of the OCLC System;
- To identify the services typically provided by participating processing centers and the charges they commonly levy for these services; and
- To determine the need, if any, for modification of OCLC functions to better integrate processing centers and their clients with other participants.

Enclosed are several copies of a questionnaire on processing centers. I hope you will take the time to fill out one form for each processing center profiled through your office. Please return completed questionnaires to me by 1979 June 29. If you have any questions or need additional copies of the questionnaire, please feel free to call me.

To: Network Coordinators
From: Carl Anderson, LSD

1979 May 25
Page 2

I realize that we have not yet offered you even a working definition of "processing center," but indeed formulating its definition is one of the objectives of this survey. Your decision to include or to omit an agency in your response will contribute to the definition process. Please be assured, however, that you may expand your list of processing centers later if the final definition is broader than the tentative one you use in formulating responses to this request.

Thank you in advance for your help.

CAA/pc
encl.

c: P. Bova, OCLC/LSD
R. Call, OCLC/LSD
A. Ekstrom, OCLC/LSD
M. Jacob, OCLC/USD
Network Directors



PROCESSING CENTER QUESTIONNAIRE

TO: Network Coordinators

Network: _____

For each institution which you consider to be a processing center, please complete a separate form supplying the following information.

Processing Center Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Institution Symbol: _____

1. What types of clients does the processing center serve, and how many of each type:

	<u>Number</u>
Public libraries	_____
University/college libraries	_____
Community/junior college libraries	_____
School libraries	_____
Special libraries	_____
Other (please describe):	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. What is the geographic distribution of the center's clients? (Check One)

Within one state _____ Within a multicounty region _____
 Within one county _____ Within one city, town, or community _____
 Other (_____) _____

3. Does the center serve only libraries whose collections focus on special subject interests (e.g., art, law, population studies)?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what are the area(s) of subject specialization?

- Over, please -

4. (a) Is the processing center legally mandated to provide processing services to its clients?
Yes _____ No _____
- (b) Does the processing center exclusively serve a formally constituted consortium or similar group of libraries?
Yes _____ No _____
- (c) Do all or most of the clients have separate budgets and sources of funds?
Yes _____ No _____
- (d) How does a client join or contract with the center?

5. (a) What processing services does the center provide and at what charge?
(Please attach a price list or summary of services and charges.)
- (b) May clients choose to receive only selected services from among the full range offered by the center?
Yes _____ No _____
6. Does the center need continuing access to cataloging information about items it has previously processed for individual clients?
Yes _____ No _____
- If yes, why? _____

7. What characteristics of this agency lead you to include it in your working definition of "processing center"?

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return it, by 1979 June 29, to:

Carl Anderson
Library Systems Division
OCLC, Inc.
1125 Kinnear Road
Columbus, Ohio 43212

APPENDIX B:

The State-of-the-Art of Processing Centers
in Wisconsin

W
L
C

WISCONSIN LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

728 STATE STREET MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

Please reply to: 464 Memorial Library
Tel.: 608-263-5051
June 6, 1979

Carl Anderson
LSD
OCLC, Inc.
1125 Kinnear Road
Columbus, OH 43212

Dear Carl,

What follows is a brief essay on the state-of-the-art of processing centers in Wisconsin and trends as we see them developing. I have also included some personal opinions on the definition of processing centers.

Public Libraries: Attached you should find a map of the state outlining the existing public library systems in Wisconsin. The formation of, or participation in such a system is a prerequisite for several categories of state-aid funding for public libraries in WI, and thus they cover almost all the state.

LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) funds have been given by the State to the headquarters libraries in these systems for automation. By Oct. 1, 1979 all system headquarters libraries will be on-line with OCLC.

LSCA funds have now been shifted into processing centers in order to extend these OCLC services out into each system. These centers will presumably serve the smaller libraries in a system that can not afford to install such automated systems themselves.

The current situation is:

Arrowhead System	WIJ	Began centralized processing 790105
Southwest System	---	Has operated a manual centralized processing center for five years, hopes to automate in Oct.
Southcentral	WIM	Catalogs for headquarters library only, but completing a retro/con before going to centralized processing.
Milwaukee Co.	GZD	Has a demonstration project underway, hopes to extend processing to some suburban libraries.
Mid-Wisconsin	WIF	Discussions currently underway to lay foundation for processing center.
Winding Rivers	GZX	Hope to have centralized processing by 1981. Some discussions with local school districts have taken place.
Winnefox	GZK	No concrete plans.
Manitowoc	WIA	No concrete plans.
Nicolet	GZG	No concrete plans, although they are building a manual union list.

Outagamie/Waupaca	—	Hope to come on-line Oct. 1, 1979. No concrete plans for centralized processing.
Wisc. Valley	WIW	Current catalog for system headquarters only, although they have a grant proposal pending for a multi-type centralized cataloging project.
Indianhead	GZF	No concrete plans.
Northwest	—	Will come on-line during 1979. No concrete plans for centralized processing.

Academic Libraries:

These folks don't seem much inclined toward centralized operations. The smaller libraries tend to favor terminal sharing as a method for providing automation to small operations.

Wisconsin has a system of two-year campuses that are currently served by a manual centralized processing center. We fully expect that they will automate within the next two years. We hope this will be through OCLC.

Special libraries & others:

We have not seen much activity among these libraries for centralized processing, due in part to their diversity and isolation from one another. The effort of the State Agency libraries to centrally process divergent collections may lead the way.

There has been talk for some years of a centralized processing center for health science and hospital libraries in Wisconsin, but nothing concrete so far.

We expect to see a substantial increase in processing center operations here in Wisconsin over the next three years. This activity will probably be focused in the public libraries and perhaps among school libraries. We can expect at least one processing center in each of the Public Library Systems and perhaps two or more in some of the geographically larger systems.

Now, on to the more difficult task of defining these centralized operations. It is my feeling that any time cataloging takes place for more than one library in the same place, by the same staff, - you've got a processing center. The "full service" center will also provide acquisitions, physical preparation of the book (jackets, labels, etc.), accounting and perhaps new book lists. A deluxe operation might also add consulting services, some book selection, Interlibrary Loan clearinghouse functions, published union lists and a variety of other services.

The chief problem that processing centers face is the dilemma between the cost savings of one profile and one holding symbol versus the need to have access to individual holdings information for participants. If processing centers were given the ability to display a variety of holdings symbols under one profile, many of the more difficult problems would be relieved.

I realize that this has revenue implications for OCLC, but we have not encountered situations that would indicate any attempts to create "unnatural" processing centers for the sole purpose of avoiding FTU charges.

It seems to me that if we are to extend OCLC services (and benefits) to smaller libraries, the profile and holding symbol dilemma must be resolved. We see processing centers being formed to serve:

- very small collections
- libraries that lack professional staff
- libraries that would not automate otherwise
- existing groups of libraries with a need for coordinated bibliographic control

We have not seen the development of processing centers among other, larger libraries. I suspect that any fear I may have had at one time that a liberal definition of "processing center" would lead to abuses, has been dispelled by the inefficiencies that many libraries perceive to be a part of larger processing centers:

- overhead costs in a very large center would probably offset FTU and other savings.
- libraries fear a loss of control over cataloging.
- large geographic distance adds cost and time delay
- libraries find it difficult to agree on common policy unless bound together by other considerations, i.e., subject of collections, interlibrary loan arrangements, legal or fiscal requirements, geographic proximity, etc.

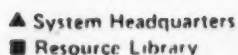
Please let us know of your progress in developing a definition for processing centers and in identifying ways in which the system could assist their efforts and special needs. We see the development of cost effective centralized processing as a way of opening a whole new market for OCLC activity here in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



Tamara Miller, Coordinator

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APPENDIX C:

Network Billing Data

SAMPLE OF OCLC PARTICIPANTS

<u>Network</u>	<u>Institutions</u>										
AMIGOS	ACC TLS	AKK TUT	AVR TXD	AZY TXO	IEM TXX	ILU	IVD	NMH	OKE	OKU	TAP
BCR	COC UUO	COR	DGS*	IOH	IOS	IOZ	KFP	KKP	MOB	MOU	SDD
CAPCON	BAL	DWT	MDL	WCL							
CCLC	BCU	JCC*	NCW	SCM	WIU						
FAUL	RNM										
FEDLINK	ACS NAS	AEF NPO	AER OAO	AEY TRC	AGF TRV	AHA UDH	CBU UDT	DFC USI	FCC	GPO	HNT
ILLINET	CGP UIU	IAK	IAW	IBE	IBQ	ICB	ICM	IDB	IDK	IDY*	IEQ*
INCOLSA	ICP	IGC	III	IMI	IPL	ISU	IVC				
INDEPENDENT	AUS*	MWS	WVM*								
MIDLNET	KCP	MOQ	UMR								
MINITEX	FWB	MHS	MNE	MNP	MPI	RRC	WMM				
MLC	EEA	EEW	EXO	EYA	EYM	EYY	EZT				
NEBASE	NBD	WAY									
NELINET	ADL SSA	BHA UB4	BWE VTJ	CLS WRM	ENC	HLS	MBU	MER*	MWN*	PMA	RIH
OHIONET	AKL* SIN*	BVP UTS	CNC WOO	DAY YNG	HEI	LMC	MZN	ODN	OHN	OPL*	OWK
PALINET	ACA PHO	BTL PIA	DLF PIM	EAP PIX*	HBP PI7	KZS PVW	LYU RUG*	NJG TVJ	NJP	PBL	PHD*
PRLC	AIB*	AOP	EIB	PSF	ROB	WVU					

*Omitted from tabulations due to lack of activity during the six-month period under study (1979 Jan. - June).

SAMPLE OF OCLC PARTICIPANTS
(continued)

<u>Network</u>	<u>Institutions</u>										
SOLINET	AJB	EGA	FBR	FJD	FRA*	FUB	GAS	GFV	GMU	GYG	KHN
	KUK	LNE	LWA	NBG	NGU	NPC	NZG	SUC	THM	TNH*	TXM
	VHS	VRC									
SUNY	RVD*	VUE	VVI	VVS	VXE	VXM	VYA	VYM	VZH	VZS	VZZ
	YAH	YJM	YWM	ZGM	ZNM	ZYU					
WESTERN	ACL	CCS	CHU	CLM*	CPE	CSA	CUF	OEL	ORC	WAU	
WLC	GZA	GZL	GZV	WIF	WIW						

*Omitted from tabulations due to lack of activity during the six-month period under study (1979 Jan. - June).

Table C-3. Summary System Use Data for Multiple Institution Processing Centers.

Total Titles per Processing Center	Number of Centers in Group	Group Total Titles	Group Reclass. Produces	Group FTU's (incl. Reclass.)	Group BFTU's (incl. Reclass.)
1 - 1000	8	4486	40	3820	3820
1001-2000	6	10288	630	8269	8153
2001-3000	9	21104	279	17388	17254
3001-10000	27	154328	896	112036	109902
10000+	22	404405	29	199294	195247
ALL	72	594611	1874	340807	334376

Table C-2. Summary System Use Data for All Reported Processing Centers.

Total Titles per Processing Center	Number of Centers in Group	Group Total Titles	Group Reclass. Produces	Group FTU's (incl. Reclass.)	Group BFTU's (incl. Reclass.)
1 - 1000	9	5182	40	4469	4461
1001-2000	11	17917	630	14604	14431
2001-3000	14	34870	279	29327	28874
3001-10000	38	221170	1421	167913	164528
10000+	31	589107	8595	343216	327161
ALL	103	868246	10965	559529	539455

Table C-1. Summary System Use Data for a Sample of All Institutions.

Total Titles per Institution	Number of Insti- tutions in Group	Group Total Titles	Group Reclass. Produces	Group FTU's (incl. Reclass.)	Group BFTU's (incl. Reclass.)
1 - 1000	49	22123	1537	20500	20030
1001-2000	42	61264	2624	56199	53944
2001-3000	32	76815	2949	71053	68430
3001-10000	43	227921	13536	211025	203689
10000+	24	416911	18568	329516	298622
ALL	190	805034	39214	688293	644715